

FORT McCOY, BUILDING T-1863 (OFFICERS' QUARTERS)
(Camp McCoy, Building T-1863 (Officers' Quarters)
Fort McCoy
Sparta vicinity
Monroe County
Wisconsin

HABS NO. WI-308-G

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PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT MCCOY, BUILDING T-1863 (OFFICERS' QUARTERS)
[Camp McCoy, Building T-1863 (Officers' Quarters)]
HABS NO. WI-308-G

Location: Building T-1863 is located approximately 300' north of South Regimental Avenue, in Block 18 of the cantonment of the Main Post of Fort McCoy, in Monroe County, Wisconsin.¹

USGS Quadrangle Alderwood Lake, Wisconsin; 7.5 minute series 1983 (photorevised from 1978) UTM Coordinates: Zone 15: 4876020 N 684520 E.

Present Owner: Department of the Army.

Original Use: Officers Quarters.

Present Use: Occupied.

Significance: Building T-1863 is significant as a relatively unmodified representative of a Type OQ-23 Officers Quarters. It represents one of six type OQ-23 officers quarters constructed at Fort McCoy in 1942.²

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: Construction of Building T-1863 probably began in the summer of 1942. There is a slight discrepancy on the building completion date. The real property records on file in Buildings 2160 note the building as completed on 24 August 1942,³ while the "As Built" drawings in Building 2111 note the structure as completed on November 5, 1942.⁴
2. Architect: Col. Hugh J. Casey in the Engineering Branch of the Construction Division, Quartermaster Corps, supervised the 700 series standardized drawings of which building plan 700-1254 was part.⁵
3. Original and subsequent owners: The site for the expanded Camp McCoy military reservation was condemned and purchased by the War Department in the spring of 1942.⁶ The owner from 1942-47 was the War Department. Since 1947, the U.S. Department of the Army, the successor to the War Department, has held title.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Building T-1863 was part of construction area D at Fort McCoy. Bids for the construction of the cantonment were let in February 1942 and fixed-price contracts for seven principal construction areas were awarded in late March. The War Department purchased the lumber used in Building T-

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1863 and the rest of the cantonment in the spring of 1942. The remaining materials used in construction were apparently purchased by subcontractors in the Wisconsin area.⁷

5. Original Plans and Construction: The original "As Built" drawings for building plan 700-1254 and associated drawings 700-190, 700-194, 700-196, 700-199, 700-1300, 700-1301, 700-1302, and 700-1303, are located in Building 2111 at Fort McCoy.⁸ The original cost of the building was \$25,368.⁹ Alterations and modifications to the original building plan at the time of construction include the deletion of the kitchen and the use of tempered pressed wood in place of tongue and groove in the corridors and all walls.¹⁰ The "As Built" files also note the deletion of aqua medias on Buildings T-2007, T-2561, T-2778 but not on T-1863.
6. Alterations and additions: On the exterior, the grayish white cement asbestos siding has been replaced in a few places with white siding of similar size. The exterior of the structure has been repainted twice, in 1958 and 1964. The interior corridors were re-lined with linoleum tiles in 1951. An electric coal stoker was installed in the boiler room in 1981 and the building was "upgraded" in 1984.¹¹ No data on what modifications were made during the upgrade were available. The building was also re-roofed with red asphalt shingles, rewired, and a propane gas water heater was installed at an unknown date.

B. Historical Context:

The construction of Building T-1863 was part of a massive, nation-wide mobilization program designed to build cantonments in which to house and train the expanded World War II Army. The 800 series, and the 700 series that preceded it, was a comprehensive set of drawings which could be used interchangeably in creating the various building types. Through the construction of temporary wood-frame buildings such as T-1863, the 1939 housing capacity of 200,000 persons was increased to 6,000,000 by the close of the mobilization program in the fall of 1944. In addition, war mobilization buildings are significant for their construction and technological innovation. Techniques such as the standardization of plans, the fabrication of units, and assembly-line approach to construction were largely developed in the construction of these mobilization structures.

Building T-1863 was one of six, 23-man officers quarters constructed in the main cantonment area of the "New Camp McCoy," a mobilization cantonment built by the War Department between the entrance of the United States into World War II late in 1941 and early 1943.¹² The 1941-43 cantonments were constructed to house and serve as training bases for approximately 525,000 men drafted for Army service after the declaration of war.¹³ Two newly organized Army Divisions occupied Camp McCoy during their training. The Second Army Division arrived soon after the completion of construction in the fall of 1942 and remained until November 1943, leaving for action in the Italian Campaign. The 76th Division then took over, remaining until December 1944, when they departed for service in the Battle of the Bulge and the subsequent occupation of Germany.

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Additionally, engineer, railhead, field artillery, tank destroyer, ordnance, and maintenance troops were trained at Camp McCoy concurrently with the Second and 76th Divisions.¹⁴ In 1944, Camp McCoy also became a personnel center for the Army, receiving and redirecting soldiers for new assignments. The following year the personnel center began also to discharge veterans as the war came to a close. The personnel center closed in 1946, and most other functions of the camp halted a year later.

After three years of relative inactivity, Camp McCoy was reactivated by the Defense Department for training of Regular, Reserve, and National Guard Units in the Fifth Army Area for service in the Korean War. Since 1953 the camp has become a center for training reserve units of the Army and National Guard Regiments of the Midwest Region.¹⁵

There are no records on assignees for Building T-1863. The structure was deactivated in 1967 and reactivated in 1971.¹⁶

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Building T-1863 is a well preserved relatively unmodified example of the typical 700 series 23-man Officers Quarters without Mess. Building T-1863 appears to be one of the best preserved and least altered of the remaining six type OQ-23 structures at Fort McCoy.
2. Condition of Fabric: The general condition of Building T-1863 is good. Deterioration noted in the structure's exterior include areas where the original cement asbestos siding has fallen off and been replaced and some warping where flaking paint has exposed the end grain of some exterior wood beams. No significant deterioration was noted in the structure's interior.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: Building T-1863 is rectangular in shape and measures approximately 80' in length and 29'- 6" in width. This is the same width as Buildings T-100 and T-2002. The height from grade to the roof ridge is approximately 25'. The chimney is located outside the structure and stands approximately 21' in height.
2. Foundations: The foundation of Building T-1863 consists of rows of round concrete piers on concrete footings. This was not confirmed in the field but in the drawings available. The crawl space below the guest house is screened with concrete-block skirting.

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3. Walls: The exterior walls of Building T-1863 consist of three layers: wooden sheathing, black construction paper, and cement asbestos siding measuring 11" x 24", the standard size used throughout the cantonment. Aqua medias were constructed over the first- and second-floor windows. They extend 3'-0" from the building walls and are covered with red asphalt shingles.
4. Structural System, framing: The structure consists of a light-wood frame with a pitched truss roof.
5. Porches, stoops: Building T-1863, like all 1942 cantonment buildings at McCoy, has poured concrete steps with cast-iron railings at the front, rear, and west side entrances. There are second-floor wooden balconies above the front and rear exits. These were constructed to allow access to emergency fire ladders attached to the structure.
6. Chimneys: The chimney, like all others at McCoy, is free-standing and constructed of red brick in a running bond with Portland cement mortar. The chimney has a 15" fire clay flue lining and rests on a 10" thick concrete footing.¹⁷
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: Four-light triple-recessed panel doors were used at the rear, front, and west side, first-floor entries and on the second-floor emergency exits. The entry to the boiler room (front elevation) has two, four-light three-panel doors. The doors match the specifications for doors in drawing 700-1300.¹⁸
 - b. The windows are all eight-over-eight-light, double-hung sash; there are fifteen on the west side, thirteen on the east side, three on the front and four on the rear. All windows have simple architrave and screens.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor Plans:
 - a. Basement: There is no basement under Building T-1863. The crawl space is at grade.
 - b. Main Floor: Building T-1863, as constructed in 1942, had a total square footage of 4,720. There are twenty-one, 10'-0" x 8'-0" bedrooms, a combination toilet/bath, and a boiler room.
 - c. Attic: The attic space above the second floor contains the roof trusses.

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2. Stairways: There is a turned, fifteen-step stairway with a central landing leading from the first-floor corridor to the second floor. The stairway is located directly opposite the west elevation entry.
3. Flooring: The structure has hardwood floors except the toilet/bath which has concrete flooring. The flooring in the corridors has been covered with brown linoleum tiles in the corridors.
4. Wall and Ceiling finishes: All wallboard and ceiling surfaces in the interior have been painted. The toilet/bath area has a horizontal wood board surface.
5. Openings: The interior doors to the suites, bedrooms, bathrooms/toilets, and boiler room are five-panel doors with no lights. These doors match the specifications in drawing 700-1254.¹⁹
6. Decorative Trim: All doorways surrounds and other moldings are of simple, square trim.
7. Hardware: The original galvanized metal knobs and rim locks survive on most interior doors. The original hardware on all of the double-hung windows also remains. The original toilet fixtures have been retained. Most of the interior and exterior lighting fixtures were replaced when the structure was rewired.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating: The structure is heated by a coal-fired steam boiler. Heat is dissipated via heating ducts and steam radiators. A Lennox Furnace Company Electric Blower Unit was added to the system in September 1943.²⁰ An electric coal stoker was installed in the heating plant in 1981.²¹ A propane tank and gas-fired hot water heater was added to the system at an unknown date.
 - b. Ventilation: The structure is vented through two fixed wooden louvers in the attic at the rear and front walls and through 8" x 1'-10", screen openings in the ceiling of the first- and second-floor rooms and corridors. In addition, there are vents in the concrete-block skirting of the crawl-space.
 - c. Lighting: Most of the interior and exterior lighting fixtures were replaced when the structure was rewired.
 - d. Plumbing: The original cast-iron enameled plumbing remains in the toilets and bathrooms.

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D. Site:

- I. General Setting and orientation: Building T-1863 is located approximately 300' north of South Regimental Avenue in a row of buildings (T-1857 to T-1863) oriented generally south-southeast to north-northwest.²²
2. Historical Landscape Design: To the south of the building there is a gravel parking lot and an unnamed gravel road. The remainder of the building lot is relatively flat and planted in grass.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- A. Architectural Drawings: Building T-1863 was built from 700 series plan numbers 700-1254, 700-190, 700-194, 700-196, 700-199, 700-1300, 700-1301, 700-1302, and 700-1303. The original "As Built" plans used to construct the six OQ-23 officers' quarters are located in Building 2111 at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:
 - a. Standard Mobilization Drawings 700 Series Plan number 700-1254* and associated drawings 700-190, 700-194, 700-196, 700-199, 700-1300, 700-1301, 700-1302, and 700-1303*. (* These drawings were modified at Ft. McCoy).
 - b. Office of the Area Engineer, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. "Camp McCoy Project -- General Layout Plan no. 6150-L, May 23, 1942.
 - c. Record Drawing file #79 in "As Built" files, Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
 - d. Real Property Record, Building and Structures, Building 2145, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
 - e. File entitled "Equipment Records," Building 2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
2. Secondary and Published Sources:

"As Built" file #79, Building T-2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

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Basic Information Map, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, General Site Map North Fort Sheet 3a of 13. Office of the Facilities Engineer, Building T-2160. Original January -11-1965; Revision #11 June-4-1976.

Buildings and Structures Descriptions, from box marked "Save Historical"; Building T-2145 (Meatlocker), Fort McCoy, Original typed entries, undated.

"Historical Summary," typescript summary of the history of Camp McCoy prepared by the Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy n.d., ca. 1985, p. 6.

Lenore Fine and Jesse A. Remington, *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States*. (volume in the series, *United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services*) (Washington, D.C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army).

Office of the Area Engineer, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. "Camp McCoy Project-General Layout Plan No. 6150-1-L, May 23, 1942. Original blueline print in map file cabinet Building T-2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

Post Engineer Office Historical Data, Document dated 15, January 1946, on file Building T-2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

Real property records file; Building T-2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Also see original Real Property Record cards filebox in Building 2145 "Meatlocker", Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

"To Condemn 9600 acres for McCoy," *Sparta Herald*, February 9, 1942, p. 1.

Unmarked wooden File Box, Building T-2145, "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. File contains 4x5 cards listing buildings and assignees.

C. Likely Sources Not Investigated:

1. Documentary: Information on the firm charged with the construction of Building T-1863 may be available. Additional data may be available in the National Archives on Col. Hugh J. Casey of the Engineering Branch of the Construction Division, Quartermaster Corps, who supervised the 1941 revision of the 700 series standardized drawings of which building plan 700-1254 was part.
2. Oral History: Interviews could be conducted with personnel involved in the construction of the officers quarters at Fort McCoy and the Fort McCoy records and other military archives could be searched for living personnel who occupied these or similar quarters.

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D. Supplemental Materials:

The original "As Built" drawings for Building T-1863 could not be duplicated. Standard plans for the 700 series OQ-23 are available from the National Archives.

Prepared by: James A. Glass Ph.D.
Field Supervisor
HABS Phase - Fort McCoy Project
September 1988

and

Keith Landreth, Richard Hayes
Associate Investigators
CERL Phase - Fort McCoy Project
December 1988

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation of Fort McCoy was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) of the National Park Service, Robert J. Kapsch, chief, during the summer of 1988. The project was sponsored by the United States Army, Environmental Office, Colonel Ronald G. Kelsey, chief, with the assistance of Constance W. Ramirez, Historic Preservation Officer for the U.S. Army. Local sponsorship was provided at Fort McCoy by the base Commander, Colonel Sorensen, and by Al Balliett and Marvin Westenburg of the Environmental Division; John Calvert, Engineering Planning and Services Division; and Robert Wells, Real Property. The project was managed through the HABS/HAER WASO office by John A. Burns, architect, and project leader and Catherine Crawford, HABS historian. The documentation was undertaken at the HABS/HAER field office at Fort McCoy by James Glass, HABS/HAER, and by Keith Landreth, U.S. Army Construction Research Laboratory (USACERL), Champaign, Illinois. Large-format photography was done by Martin Stupich.

NOTES:

1. Basic Information Map, Fort McCoy Wisconsin, General Site Map North Fort Sheet 3a of 13. Office of the Facilities Engineer, Bldg 2160. Original January -11-1965; Revision #11 June-4-1976.
2. Buildings and Structures Descriptions, from box marked "Save Historical"; Building 2145 (Meatlocker), Fort McCoy, Original typed entries, undated.
3. Real property records file; Building 2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Also see original Real Property Record cards filebox in Building 2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

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4. Record Drawing file #79 in "As Built Files", Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
5. Lenore Fine and Jesse A. Remington, *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States* [volume in the series, *United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services*] (Washington, D.C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army) pp 349.
6. "To Condemn 9600 acres for McCoy," *Sparta Herald*, February 9, 1942, p.1, c. 8.
7. Office of the Area Engineer, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. "Camp McCoy Project—General Layout Plan No. 6150-1-L, May 23, 1942. Original blueline print in map file cabinet building 2145 "Meatlocker."
8. Record Drawing file 079 in "As Built Files, Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
9. Real Property Records, Building 2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
10. Record Drawing file #79, Drawing 700-1254 in "As Built" Files, Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. The omission of the kitchen was an authorized modification. A drawing caption states "When building is to be erected as Officers Quarters without mess, omit kitchen extension and finish end of building similar to opposite end except install typical window in place of heater room door. Provide mess tables in Mess Hall for recreation purposes."
11. Real Property Records box, building 2145, "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Real Property Records box, building 2145, "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
12. Post Engineer Office Historical Data, Document dated 15, January 1946, on file Building 2145 "Meatlocker", Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
13. Diane Wasch and Perry Busch, (draft) History of the Design and Construction of Temporary World War II Buildings by the War Department. Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 1988, pp. 42, 47.
14. Post Engineer Office Historical Data, Document dated 15, January 1946, on file Building 2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
15. "Historical Summary," typescript summary of the history of Camp McCoy prepared by the Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy nd., ca. 1985, p. 6.
16. Unmarked wooden File Box, building 2145, "Meatlocker", Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. File contains 4x5 cards listing buildings and assignee's.
17. Standard Plan 700-6150-11b in record Drawing file #79 in "As Built" Files, Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
18. Standard Plan 700-1300 in record Drawing file #79 in "As Built" Files, Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
19. Standard Plan 700-1254 in record Drawing file #79 in "As Built" Files, Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
20. Box entitled "Equipment Records," building 2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
21. Real Property Records, Building 2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Also see Real Property Records box, building 2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
22. Basic Information Map, Fort McCoy Wisconsin, General Site Map North Fort Sheet 3a of 13. Office of the Facilities Engineer, Bldg 2160. Original January -11-1965; Revision #11 June-4-1976.